

January 19, 2022

Re: CLARIFICATION - CMOH Order 02-2022 – Symptoms after immunization and in resolved cases

Under section 29(2.1) of the *Public Health Act*, the CMOH has the authority by order to prohibit a person from attending a location for any period and subject to any conditions that the CMOH considers appropriate where the CMOH determined that the person engaging in that activity could transmit an infectious agent. The CMOH also has the authority to take whatever other steps that are, in the CMOH's opinion, necessary in order to lessen the impact of the public health emergency.

Further to the above, the CMOH, pursuant to her authority under section 29(2.1) of the Act, made:

- CMOH Order 02-2022 (Order) to protect Albertans from exposure to COVID-19 and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by requiring persons who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or are confirmed cases of COVID-19 to be in Isolation.

Further to the Order, questions have arisen concerning whether in certain circumstances a person who has COVID-19-like symptoms after immunization or after recovery from COVID-19 is required to be in Isolation in accordance with Part 3 of the Order as applicable.

This document provides clarification as to certain circumstances that do not pose a risk to public health and do not require a person who has symptoms that are anticipated or expected from an identified medical event or condition or has recovered from COVID-19 to be in Isolation in accordance with the Order.

- I. Individuals who develop symptoms after immunization with a COVID-19 vaccine or any other vaccine.
 - a. Following the administration of a vaccine, an immunized person may develop some of the symptoms described in section 2.1(c) of the Order within an expected timeframe. For clarity, those symptoms include fever and shortness of breath.
 - b. If the immunized person meets the criteria in paragraph (d) and (e), the person can be exempt from isolation as set out in Part 3 of the Order as

the symptoms are anticipated and expected due to that person's response to immunization.

- c. Where the immunized person meets the criteria in (d) and (e), that person is only required to stay at home until the symptoms resolve and is not required to be in isolation for the minimum isolation period (5 days for those fully immunized against COVID-19 or 10 days for those not fully immunized against COVID-19) as set out in Part 3 of the Order.
 - d. The immunized person is not required to be in isolation for the minimum isolation period, as per Part 3 of the Order, if the anticipated or expected symptoms are exhibited by the immunized person in the clinically expected timeframe after the administration of a vaccine AND those symptoms resolve within two days (48 hours) of symptom onset.
 - e. In the case of most vaccines, the clinically expected timeframe for the onset of symptoms described in paragraph (a) is within 24 hours of administration of the vaccine. In the case of MMR, Varicella, and MMRV vaccines the onset period may commence five to twelve days after administration.
 - f. This does not apply to individuals who meet the criteria in (d) and (e) but are required to isolate for other reasons as described in the Order.
 - g. An immunized person who develops symptoms similar to COVID-19 symptoms but does not meet the criteria in (d) and (e) is not exempt from the Order; refer to Alberta COVID-19 Public Health Disease Management Guideline for testing and further management recommendations.
- II. Resolved cases who develop COVID-19 like symptoms within three weeks of the initial positive test.
- a. Where a person was previously tested positive for COVID-19 and is considered a "resolved case" as described in (b) below, the person may subsequently develop symptoms similar to the COVID-19 symptoms described in Section 2.1(c) of the Order.
 - b. For the purposes of this clarification letter, a resolved case is a person with a previously confirmed COVID-19 infection as defined by 2.1 (b) of the Order who has recovered from COVID-19 and completed isolation in accordance with Part 3 of the Order.

Where a person who is a resolved case as per (b) exhibits COVID-19 symptoms as described in Section 2.1(c) of the Order within three weeks of the initial positive test, the person would not be required to isolate in accordance with Part 3. However, they are strongly recommended to stay at home and avoid contact with others until the symptoms resolve.

This clarification letter is not intended to replace Order 02-2022 and is provided for clarification purposes only in support of the update to Alberta's Notifiable Disease Guidance on COVID-19.

This letter may be superseded or replaced by further Orders of the CMOH as I may decide are appropriate and in accordance with the authorities under the *Public Health Act* of Alberta or any other applicable legislation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deena Hinshaw", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Deena Hinshaw, BSc, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCP
Chief Medical Officer of Health